

civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His landmark work to register Hispanic voters helped to bring these Americans into the mainstream of American public life, and the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project that he founded continues to thrive today.

Last year, I was pleased to sign an Executive order creating the President's Advisory Commission and White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. Recognizing the vital importance of providing every one of our children with fundamental knowledge and skills, the Commission was charged with creating an agenda to increase educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans.

Today, as we stand on the threshold of a new century, we look to the outstanding contributions of Hispanic Americans for inspiration and leadership. Let us join in support of Hispanic children and families as they strive to fulfill the American Dream.

To pay tribute to the achievements of Hispanic citizens and to honor the importance of Latin American and Spanish traditions in our national culture, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 1995, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon government officials, educators, and all the people of the United States to honor this observance with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and encourage all Americans to rededicate themselves to the pursuit of equality.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:59 a.m., September 15, 1995]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 18.

Executive Order 12970—Further Amendment to Executive Order No. 12864

September 14, 1995

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to extend the United States Advisory Council on the National Information Infrastructure, it is hereby ordered that section 4(b) of Executive Order No. 12864, as amended, is further amended by deleting "for a period of two years from the date of this order, unless the Council's charter is subsequently extended prior to the aforementioned date" and inserting in lieu thereof "until June 1, 1996, unless otherwise extended."

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 14, 1995.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:03 p.m., September 15, 1995]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 15, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 18.

Remarks on the Agreement To End Air Strikes in Bosnia and an Exchange With Reporters

September 15, 1995

The President. Good morning. I welcome the agreement by the Bosnian Serbs to comply with a condition set by NATO and the United Nations for ending the NATO air strikes.

American pilots and crews and their NATO colleagues have been carrying out those strikes to prevent further slaughter of innocent civilians in the Sarajevo area and in the other safe areas of Bosnia. Now, the Bosnian Serbs have stated that they will end all offensive operations within the Sarajevo exclusion zone, withdraw their heavy weapons from the zone within 6 days, and allow

road and air access to Sarajevo within 24 hours. NATO and the U.N., therefore, have suspended air operations temporarily and will carefully monitor the Serb compliance with these commitments.

The suspension is appropriate. But let me emphasize, if the Bosnian Serbs do not comply with their commitments the air strikes will resume.

Today's developments are a direct result of NATO's steadfastness in protecting the safe areas and the close cooperation between the U.N. and NATO. They also reflect the intense diplomatic efforts by Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke and the U.S. negotiating team, as well as those of our European and Russian partners.

Now the Bosnian Serbs must carry out their commitments and then turn their energies toward a political settlement that will end this terrible conflict for good. They should have no doubt that NATO will resume the air strikes if they fail to keep their commitments, if they strike again at Sarajevo or the other safe areas.

Today's actions, however, following last week's successful meeting in Geneva of the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia, are important steps along the path to peace in Bosnia. A lot of work remains to be done, but we are absolutely determined to press forward to reach a settlement to this conflict, not on the battlefield but at the negotiating table. We can and we must end Bosnia's long nightmare.

Q. Mr. President, what do you think is the possibility of transforming this into a permanent peace in Bosnia?

The President. I think there's a good possibility if the parties themselves wish to do it. And Ambassador Holbrooke and his team are working hard. We're getting good support from Europe and from Russia. I think we have a chance.

Q. Since you last spoke in so formal a setting, even so formal a setting as this, a lot has happened, including the biggest military operation in NATO's history, something that you certainly urged, intense activity by your diplomats. And you have seemed almost shy about coming out and talking about it. Is that just an abundance of caution, or why is that, sir? *[Laughter]*

The President. Not an abundance of caution, but what I have wanted to do, first of all, is let our actions speak for themselves. I thought it was important to have our actions speak for themselves.

I also think it is important that even though the United States has provided a great deal of the energy and leadership in this effort, in this, the first difficult security crisis in Europe after the cold war, I think it is important that the NATO forces and the United Nations be seen to be united and working together, and we are. And so that explains how we have tried to handle this publicly.

Q. In talking with Mr. Mladic and Mr. Karadzic and in really getting them to sign an agreement, is there a contradiction because they are convicted war criminals or accused war criminals——

The President. Accused.

Q. —accused war criminals? And do you think they can now enter sort of the world of nations just like any other leader?

The President. First of all, those decisions will all have to be made down the line by the community of nations. The most important thing is that the work continue now to make a comprehensive peace.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:04 a.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Gen. Ratko Mladic.

Remarks Honoring the 1995 NCAA Champion California State University at Fullerton Baseball Team

September 15, 1995

Thank you very much. Thank you. Please be seated. Dr. Gordon, Coach Garrido, Assistant Coach George Horton, Congressman Royce; to my friend, Roger Johnson, and to all the members of this championship team: Now, I knew that Cal State-Fullerton had won the National Baseball Championship because I keep up with it. But some of the less schooled people here in the White House, when they heard that Cal State was coming today and it was about baseball, they thought that someone had given Cal Ripken a whole State. *[Laughter]* And when they